

errors in these works (for no Entomological work, at least of any extent, can be expected to be free from them); but we may fairly give the authors and publisher the credit of having produced two works which will be a great boon to all students of Lepidoptera.

W. F. K.

Guide to the Galleries of Reptiles and Fishes in the Department of Zoology of the British Museum (Natural History). Demy 8vo. Printed by order of the Trustees, 1887.

A General Guide to the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 8vo. Printed by order of the Trustees, 1887.

THE authorities of the British Museum at South Kensington are certainly taking the best possible course to render the splendid collections under their charge available for the instruction of the people. Dr. Günther has followed up the Guide to the Mammalia with one dealing with the Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes. There is wanting only a guide to the collection of Birds to complete the series of vertebrate animals. Let us hope that the invertebrate classes may speedily receive a similar attention on the part of the zoological officers, and we may then have a series of text-books, forming together a popular manual of zoology, which will possess a special value as being founded directly upon magnificent collections which are accessible to every one. The cost also will be exceedingly moderate—in the present case purchasers get for sixpence a book of over 120 pages, illustrated with 101 good woodcut figures, and a plan of the galleries the contents of which are here described.

Excellent as the present Guide-book may be, there are one or two points in which we think it is decidedly susceptible of improvement. One of these is the equalization, or more properly coordination, of the general statements as to the structural characters of various groups. Thus the "General Notes" on Reptiles occupy about two and a half pages and those on Batrachians about the same, while over eleven pages are devoted to the general description of Fishes; and valuable as such particulars are to the student, we do not think the names of all the bones forming the Teleostean skeleton will be of much interest to those for whom this Guide is specially intended. At the same time in order to realize that vision of a cheap popular zoological handbook in which we have indulged above, we would rather see this and the corresponding sections relating to other groups judiciously enlarged than the generalities on the class of Fishes cut down. It would also be advantageous and would not occupy much space if these parts of the book could be made to give the reader some hints upon the comparative morphology of the groups, so as to lead him, when inspecting the collections, to recognize the way in which such multifarious results arise from the modifications of the same fundamental plan. The great quantity of classificational names with which this Guide-book bristles seems to be a misfortune;

but we hardly see how it is to be entirely removed. In the case of the names of classes and orders indeed it would be easy to indicate what the words actually signify; but the much more numerous family names cannot be treated in this way, and they furnish the worst examples of "hard words." Fancy an unfortunate visitor to South Kensington, innocent of Greek, finding within a line and a half two such names as "*Amphignathodontidae*" and "*Ceratobatrachidae*"!

Prof. Flower, in arranging the General Guide to the Museum, has had no such difficulties to contend with as the one just mentioned. His task was a comparatively simple one; but he has executed it in such a manner as to produce a most admirable guide to the building the contents of which are under his charge, while at the same time it will serve for the correlation of the separate guides, to one of which we have called attention above. He commences with an historical account of the foundation and progress of the British Museum down to the removal of the collections to their present abode, and finally notices, *seriatim*, the various groups of objects exhibited, in the order of the galleries in which they are to be found. To aid the visitor in finding out where he is and in what direction to move in the labyrinth of rooms and galleries the book is illustrated with elaborate plans of the different floors, and on the whole no better guide to such an establishment could be desired. In the nomenclature of the objects popular terms are generally adopted, and when the names of classes or orders have to be employed, they are generally explained.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Term Muelleria as applied to a Genus of Holothurians.

By F. JEFFREY BELL, M.A.

HOWEVER reluctant one may be to perform the most disagreeable and thankless of the duties incumbent on a zoologist, there are times and occasions when one must propose the change of a generic term. The visitor to the Starfish Gallery of the Natural-History Museum who consults the index to the new popular guide to that gallery and to the collection of Mollusea will learn that the *Muelleria* he finds among the Holothurians is a freshwater oyster! The claims of Féruccac (1823), who has ten years priority over Jaeger (1833), are such that the Holothurian must have a new name: as *Jaegeria* does not appear to be in use, and as its adoption will probably lead to less confusion than any other name, while, lastly, it will give us the opportunity of honouring a very thorough worker at Holothurian organization, I venture to propose *Jaegeria* to replace *Muelleria*, Jaeger; the definition of the genus will remain as in the latest monographs. I cannot but regret that the authors of two recent valuable monographs on the class generally should have left this little, but not unimportant, point uncorrected.